

FAIRBANKS METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Main Conference Room
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska

Meeting Minutes March 5, 2008

1) Call to Order

Ethan Birkholz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2) Introduction of Members and Attendees

The following were present:

- * FMATS Policy Committee members
- ** FMATS Staff members
- *** FMATS Technical Committee members

NAME	REPRESENTING
*** Ethan Birkholz (Chair)	DOT&PF, Planning Manager, Northern Region
*** Bernardo Hernandez	FNSB Director Community Planning
*** Bill Butler	(absent) City of North Pole
*** Bob Pristash	City of Fairbanks
*** Bruce Carr	ARRC
*** Emily Bratcher	(absent) FNSB Planning Commission
*** Glenn Miller	FNSB
*** Joan Hardesty	ADEC
*** Mike Schmetzer	City of Fairbanks
*** Art Dulaune	(absent) Lynden Transport Inc
*** Marc Wohlford	(absent) UAF
*** Michael Meeks	(absent) Fort Wainwright
** Jeff Roach	DOT&PF, Fairbanks Area Transportation Planner
** Todd Boyce	FNSB
** Alexa Greene	DOT&PF, Fairbanks Area Assistant Transportation Planner
James Connor	FNSB
Donna Gardino	DOT&PF, Northern Area Planner
Jerry Colp	City of Fairbanks

3) Public Comment Period

None

4) Approval of the March 5, 2008 Agenda

Bernardo Hernandez requested the addition of the following agenda items 10a. Green Infrastructure and global warming issues; 10b. Vision Fairbanks Update; 10c. North Pole Land Use Plan; and 10d. Noble Street Design.

- **MOTION:** To approve the March 5, 2008 agenda as amended.
(Carr/Schmetzer). None opposed. Approved.

5) Approval of the February 6, 2008 Minutes

- **MOTION:** To approve the February 6, 2008 minutes as presented. (Schmetzer/Carr). None opposed. Approved.

6) Committee Reports

a) FMATS Policy Hiring Committee Subcommittee

Ethan Birkholz informed the committee that State of Alaska, DOT&PF, Planning employee; Donna Gardino had accepted the FMATS Coordinator position and will start on April 2nd. The current Bylaws state the chair of the Technical Committee is the DOT&PF Northern Region Planning Manager, hence the Bylaws are in need of updating to reflect the MPO Coordinator's position and duties.

The staff will prepare draft amendments to the Bylaws that will be approved via email, and then presented to the Policy Committee at the March 19th meeting.

7) Old Business

a) CMAQ PM 2.5 Reductions Project Scope

At the last Policy meeting Glenn Miller distributed a brief overview of the scope for the additional \$1.24 million in CMAQ funding for the PM 2.5 Reductions Project. The tasks had been expanded and Jim Conner, FNSB Air Quality, discussed each task in detail.

8) New Business

a) TIP Obligation update

Ethan Birkholz explained that the current fiscal year (FFY08) has many projects that may not be ready for programmed funding by August 2008. There is approximately \$2.5 million that will require obligation. Mr. Birkholz explained a few options to obligate the remaining funding in FFY08 but none of the options were acted upon.

9) Public Comment Period

None

10) Other Issues

a) Green Infrastructure and global warming issues

Bernardo Hernandez thanked DOT&PF for their participation and their financial support for the Green Infrastructure (GI) Training. Mr. Hernandez also informed the Technical Committee that there are public meetings in Fairbanks on the issues of global warming and that the FNSB is conducting the Don't Be Fuelish competition again this summer. This competition is between different organizations to save the most miles getting to and from work by not driving in a single-occupant vehicle. Employees can walk, ride a bike, carpool, bus or any combination of those to get to work and save miles. Winning is based on the average number of miles saved per employee.

b) Vision Fairbanks Update

Bernardo Hernandez let the Technical Committee know that the Vision Fairbanks Plan is in the adoption process to incorporate it into the FNSB Comprehensive Plan. The plan will be going to the Fairbanks City Council on March 24th; then onto the FNSB Planning Commission on March 25th.

c) North Pole Land Use Plan

Bernardo Hernandez informed the Technical Committee that his department had started working on the North Pole Land Use Plan.

d) Noble Street Design

Bernardo Hernandez informed the Technical Committee that he was concerned that the Noble Street project was not within the current Vision Fairbanks Plan and that it will reduce pedestrian facilities by going from 2 lanes to 3 lanes. Bob Pristash said that at one time the Vision Fairbanks Plan stated that Noble Street would be a travel corridor and that within the current right of way the sidewalk will only be 4 feet wide in some areas and that for all downtown City of Fairbanks projects he is accommodating the Vision Fairbanks Plan. Mr. Hernandez was concerned that the pedestrian facilities were not taken into account and Mike Schmetzer informed the committee that to make changes to the design comments should be formalized and sent to the City of Fairbanks for consideration.

11) Informational Items


Mike Schmetzer informed the committee that next winter there will be a revised snow removal plan. Snow removal will take place more often and in more areas to accommodate more pedestrians and bike riders.

12) Adjourn

11:30 a.m.

The next scheduled Technical Committee Meeting is April 2, 2008 at the DOT&PF Main Conference Room.

Approved:



Ethan Birkholz, Chair
FMATS Technical Committee

Date: 4-10-08